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ANNUAL REPORT

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

Fiscal Year 1984-85

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ANNUAL REPORT

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of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate one for self-support or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in the function of the eye including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.

2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in the compilation of names of persons among the state's blind population. Everyone on the blind register was notified and was asked to respond to a questionnaire and prioritization. In this way the agency hopes to identify and implement the kinds of programs and services those receiving the query feel are necessary to ensure that the greatest needs are met. To my knowledge no other agency in the nation has ever conducted such a survey.

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The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency, or both.

LEGAL BLINDNESS QUALIFICATIONS

1. Legal blindness shall be defined as a level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens available, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate one for self-support, or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.
2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

June 30, 1985

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Riley:

With the completion of my first year as Commissioner, I am pleased to report that the Commission for the Blind continues to respond progressively to the needs of the State's blind and visually impaired, providing a broad spectrum of quality services. This Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1984-1985 is a reflection of that progress.

The smooth transition in leadership that has occurred since Commissioner Bowles retired has had a significant and positive impact on the achievements of the agency during the year and speaks highly of the professionalism of the staff. These accomplishments are many and some were unique.

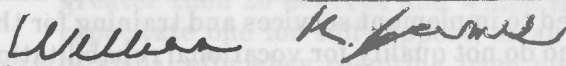
For example, a new Outreach Program for the Elderly Blind has been initiated to implement services and training for the elderly blind who do not qualify for vocational rehabilitation services. This group represents the largest segment of our state's blind population and until now there has been no program in existence to serve this important segment of blind citizens. Now state funds have been set aside to enable these folks to live independently in their own homes.

Indications are that the Commission accomplished a "first" among agencies for the blind during 1984-1985. Involved was the compilation of needs assessment inventory among the state's blind population. Everyone on the blind register was queried and was asked to respond to a goal identification and prioritization questionnaire. In this way the agency hopes to identify and implement the kinds of programs and services those receiving the query feel are necessary to ensure that the greatest needs are met. To my knowledge no other agency in the nation has ever conducted such a survey.

Also noteworthy is the agency's progress in the Business Enterprise Program. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1985, the Commission for the Blind opened as many vending stands as had been opened during the past four years. Nine of these were opened on South Carolina's interstate highway system. These stands bring blind operators incomes ranging in the \$20,000 to \$30,000 bracket and contribute significantly to the tax revenue being returned to the state.

These accomplishments and those that are described herein would not have been possible without your leadership and encouragement and the sincere support of a loyal General Assembly. Over the years the Legislature has enabled the South Carolina Commission for the Blind to be looked upon as a national leader in providing services to the blind and visually impaired.

Sincerely yours,


 COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND
 William K. James
 Commissioner

COMMISSION BOARD

1. Mrs. Patricia L. Patrick.....Darlington
 (Chairman - 6th Congressional District)
2. Clay W. Evatt, Jr., M.D.....Charleston
 (Vice-Chairman - 1st Congressional District)
3. Mrs. Earlene Gardner.....Aiken
 (Secretary - 3rd Congressional District)
4. Mr. William J. Shealy.....Columbia
 (2nd Congressional District)
5. Mr. Samuel L. Zimmerman.....Greenville
 (4th Congressional District)
6. Mr. Robert R. Bell.....Laurens
 (5th Congressional District)
6. Mrs. Mattie Bell Gatlin.....Hanahan
 (Member-at-Large)

ADMINISTRATION

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind during Fiscal Year 1984-1985 made significant strides in meeting the needs of the state's blind and visually impaired.

Of particular note were the efforts of the agency to obtain as much information as possible from blind persons concerning their views and desires as to what kinds of services and programs we should be pursuing. A survey that would define and prioritize needs and goals was mailed to everyone on the blind register in South Carolina. The results of this survey are still being assessed, but it is contemplated that much valuable information will surface when the tabulations are completed.

Reinforcing this effort has been increased communications with consumer groups to encourage additional input to the identification and prioritization process. Both assessments will be helpful during the coming year in setting realistic and meaningful goals for additional programs and services.

On July 2, 1984, William K. James assumed duties as Commissioner, having replaced Commissioner Maxine Bowles, who retired June 30, 1984. Commissioner James brought to the Commission more than 20 years of managerial and supervisory experience in all phases of work for the blind.

The smooth transition in leadership that occurred during the year following Commissioner Bowles' retirement was clearly evidenced, not only in the expansion of services and programs, but in the low rate of staff turnover that occurred. A 6.5% turnover includes three retirements and one employee who resigned to complete his education. This employee was rehired in a newly created position following his graduation.

Staff development and training was made available to all employees during the year. With 188 training situations available, 97% of the staff took advantage of at least one opportunity.

Near the close of the year a position vacancy occurred in the Public Affairs Office. An announcement to recruit a new Public Affairs Director was made in June. Selection was made with the new Director slated to join the agency on July 2, 1985. An aggressive effort is planned in the area of public awareness during the upcoming fiscal year to ensure that messages concerning the programs and services of the Commission reach the maximum number of eligible blind and visually impaired South Carolinians.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Assisting blind and visually handicapped clients find productive employment and achieve economic independence is a primary goal of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

Clients have access to a variety of vocational rehabilitation services, including job development and placement, medical treatment, psychological and vocational evaluation, adjustment to blindness training, vocational training of occupational tools and facilities, and a specialized counseling and guidance service.

In an effort to find productive employment, counselors develop Individual Written Rehabilitation Programs (IWRP). This details the services to be provided that focus on the achievement of objectives specific to each client.

Closures during Fiscal Year 1984-1985 increased to 228 over 219 during the previous year. Counselors in the Commission's nine district offices placed clients considered rehabilitated in a variety of jobs at or above the minimum wage category. These included forester, rehabilitation instructor, sales clerk, masseur, dispatcher, laundromat owner and operator, stockclerk, municipal clerk, machine tool setter, counter supply worker, cooking supervisor, billing clerk, sales representative, machinist, public safety officer, head housekeeper, material handler, and vending stand operator. One client was ordained as a Methodist minister and, although totally blind, is currently in the pulpit in South Carolina.

For clients who are unable to attend the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia, the Commission dispatches a Mobile Outreach Unit. This provides instruction in the activities of daily living, adjustment to blindness skills, and independent travel. One hundred thirty clients participated in this program during the year in Florence, Georgetown, Orangeburg, Greenville, McCormick, Newberry, Lancaster, Greenwood, and Spartanburg.

During the period, a Commission for the Blind rehabilitation counselor was cited with the Case of the Year Award by the S.C. Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association for his success in placing a deaf-blind client as a sander in a furniture factory.

THE ELLEN BEACH MACK REHABILITATION CENTER

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center, located in Columbia, served 104 clients during Fiscal Year 1984-1985 in a variety of training programs that included adjustment to blindness, vocational evaluation, horticulture, business enterprise, and blindcraft.

Statistics reveal that 64% of those attending the Center were successful in their training. This success factor breaks out as follows:

Type Training	Percentage Success Factor
Education	16
Vocational	9
Job Placement	30
Homemaking	9

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center was assigned the agency's low vision clinic in June 1985. This facility will provide a variety of services to clients including diagnostic evaluations of low vision needs. Training with the appropriate aid to help the client use his remaining vision most effectively will also be provided. These services will be available to clients of the agency without cost, while private individuals will be afforded the service at a nominal charge.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind functions as the State Licensing Agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program. The Business Enterprise Program (B.E.P.) of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind has two major purposes; first, provide public, federal, and private locations with a high quality food service; and second, offer remunerative employment for the State's legally blind and visually impaired. By providing public, federal, and private buildings with a high quality snack and food service operation, building employees are enticed to remain in the building during breaks and lunch periods instead of wasting valuable time leaving the building. In addition, overall employee morale is boosted with the provision of food service operations offered by the state's blind licensed vendors.

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind has helped to increase the opportunity for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and productive employment by training these individuals in all areas of merchandising such as inventory control, display, sales promotion, and customer service, and placing those individuals in a business enterprise of their own.

Fiscal Year 1984-1985 has been a progressive one for the Business Enterprise Program. In cooperation with the South Carolina Department of Highways and Public Transportation, the BEP has been successful in building nine vending facilities on interstate highways. Two additional facilities are scheduled to open on July 8, 1985, bringing the number to 14 interstate vending facilities on South Carolina's highways. These vending facilities on interstate highways create new jobs for the state of South Carolina, bringing in additional tax revenues. They also provide opportunities for blind individuals to become self-sufficient rather than tax burdens on the state. A blind licensed vendor is an independent businessman, so his employment is accomplished without the creation of a new state position. Additionally, travelers on South Carolina's interstate highway system are provided with a much-needed service.

Travelers on these arteries have given lavish praise to the vending facilities presently on line and have requested that we install, as soon as possible, vending facilities on I-85, I-20 and the northern end of I-26. This will be done as soon as possible, subject to the availability of funds.

The Business Enterprise Program now boasts 92 vending facilities in South Carolina which generated sales of \$3,885,709.00 during Fiscal Year 1984-1985. The state as well as the blind vendors benefited tremendously from the program. During Fiscal Year 1984-1985, \$182,150.00 was paid in state sales tax by blind licensed vendors operating vending facilities in South Carolina.

The Vending Facility Program continues to change and grow in many ways. In addition to the expansion on South Carolina's interstate highway system by full-line vending facilities, more and more canteen locations are going into hot food preparation and salad bar operations. The expansion of these facilities and the positive performance of South Carolina's blind licensed vendors are beginning to eliminate many of the old myths of blind persons and helping to change the overall attitude of the sighted public. This benefits not only the Business Enterprise Program, but all blind licensed vendors and gives the state of South Carolina an opportunity to be a leader in providing opportunities for the blind citizens of the state.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS DEPARTMENT

The Prevention of Blindness Department provides a wide range of services in its efforts to either prevent blindness or restore sight. During Fiscal Year 1984-1985, this department served 4,866 clients.

Of the 514 eye surgeries and hospitalizations sponsored by the Prevention Department, 187 were for cataracts, one of the leading causes of blindness in the state. Twenty glaucoma operations were authorized due to uncontrollable glaucoma and 11 enucleations occurred, due to eye injuries, irreversible pathologies, glaucoma or other old-age injuries. Following surgical removal, seven prostheses were fitted to affected patients. The total cost of this service was \$373, 991.70.

In 1984-1985, 19 children had strabismus operations to correct crossed eyes, while other causes, surgery or hospitalization, accounted for 269 cases.

The Department sponsored 684 eye examinations discovered by the agency's visual screening program. As a direct result of the examinations it sponsored, the Prevention of Blindness Department purchased 337 pairs of glasses and 17 contact lens. It provided 920 re-examinations as a part of its follow-up services. Of the glaucoma re-checks recorded, 299 were non-clinic, while 51 were recorded to be conducted in the Walterboro Clinic.

Medication was dispensed to 55 clients during the year.

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Special Services Department, a totally state funded program, has four divisions which support the overall agency mission. These include - Children's Services, Educational Radio for the Blind, Volunteer Services, and Media Center.

The CHILDREN'S SERVICES DEPARTMENT provided services to 454 children birth to age 16 during this fiscal year. Primary emphasis was on instruction and counseling to parents of infants and very young children. Thirty families from across the state participated in the Annual Pre-School Conference in Columbia. Guest speakers and staff provided information to families on the importance of early intervention with the young blind children. Another workshop for parents focused on Technology for the Blind and its educational and vocational implications.

The Children's Services staff provided in-service training to a number of professionals in various programs serving blind children in the continuing effort to encourage placement of blind children in the least restrictive and most appropriate setting for the individual child.

EDUCATIONAL RADIO FOR THE BLIND, a joint effort of the South Carolina Educational Television Commission and the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, provided access to print information to over 1,600 blind individuals during Fiscal Year 1984-1985. The annual survey of listeners' interests indicates that the daily newspapers remain the most popular offering of the service which broadcasts 107 hours per week, 365 days per year. The full-time staff of four is assisted in reading newspapers, magazines, and other current materials by approximately 60 volunteers.

The South Carolina Educational Television Commission opened a station in Conway in early 1985, allowing individuals along the coast to access the special radio reading service program.

EDUCATIONAL RADIO FOR THE BLIND is one of the more popular agency services as it reaches young children, teenagers, employed individuals and individuals who lost their vision after retirement age. Special receivers are available at no charge upon verification of legal blindness to anyone interested in receiving the service.

Access to braille, large print, and tape materials is necessary for blind individuals to compete in educational and vocational settings. The MEDIA CENTER processed 1,241 requests for specialized materials using 1,881 volunteer hours to accomplish this. These requests include everything from one-page handouts to high school math textbooks.

Restaurants have requested reproduction of menus in braille, and the Media Center has provided these for several franchises to be used nationally. Vocational and technical schools are requesting transcription of interest exams to enable blind students an equal opportunity for enrollment.

The MEDIA CENTER is a vital service to all blind South Carolinians as services span all age ranges and a variety of needs.

Due to small staff ratio to the large number of clients served in the Special Services Department, little of the work of the other departments could be accomplished without the assistance of volunteers. The VOLUNTEER SERVICES DEPARTMENT recruits volunteers to perform a variety of tasks within the Special Services Department and the Agency as a whole. Volunteers provide child care during the Parent Workshops, they produce braille and taped materials, and read on the Educational Radio Network for the Blind in addition to providing many other important services that the agency would not be able to provide otherwise.

The dollar value to the agency of volunteers is computed at \$5.00 per hour. This equaled \$32,715 this Fiscal Year. This financial value is small indeed compared to the immeasurable contribution made by many individuals with varied skills and talents.

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

DISABILITY DETERMINATION

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is the only agency for the blind in the nation with its own Disability Determination Unit. The unit processed claims in which blindness is the primary disabling factor, making decisions on 515 claims during the Fiscal Year 1984-1985. Of this number, 42% were allowed disability benefits. All were evaluated for referral to the Vocational Rehabilitation, Children's Services, and Prevention of Blindness Departments for possible services.

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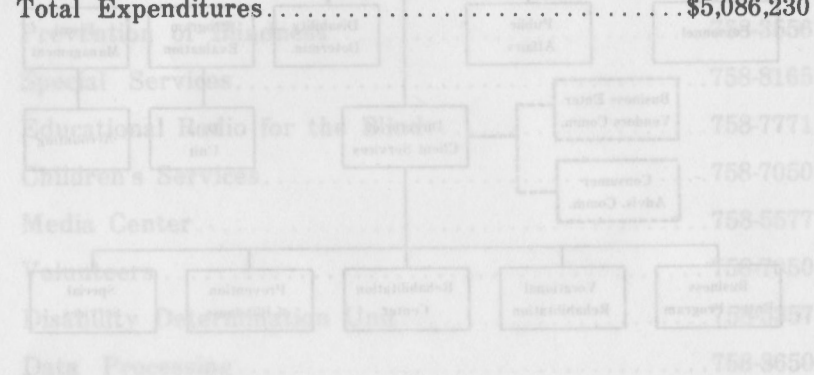
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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND SOURCES OF FUNDS FISCAL YEAR 1984-1985

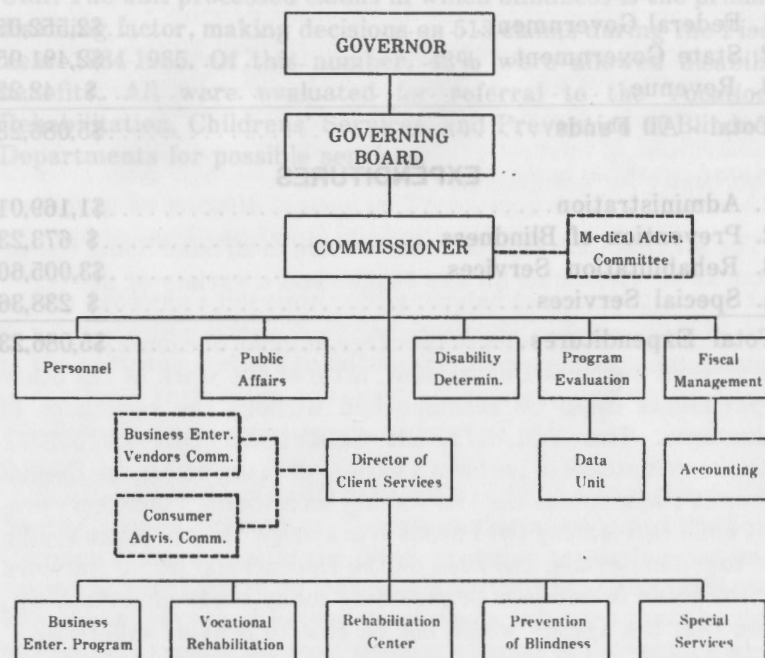
1. Federal Government.....	\$2,552,054
2. State Government.....	\$2,491,950
3. Revenue.....	\$ 42,226
Total - All Funds.....	\$5,086,230

EXPENDITURES

1. Administration.....	\$1,169,019
2. Prevention of Blindness.....	\$ 673,235
3. Rehabilitation Services.....	\$3,005,607
4. Special Services.....	\$ 238,369
Total Expenditures.....	\$5,086,230

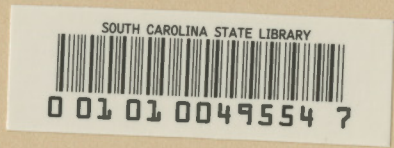


SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

TOLL FREE INFORMATION.....	1-800-922-2222
Commissioner	758-2595
Director of Client Services.....	758-3761
Director of Public Affairs.....	758-2434
Personnel	758-2605
Accounting	758-8650
Vocational Rehabilitation.....	758-2671
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center.....	758-5577
Business Enterprise Program.....	758-5173
Blindcraft	758-2233
Prevention of Blindness.....	758-3556
Special Services.....	758-8165
Educational Radio for the Blind.....	758-7771
Children's Services.....	758-7050
Media Center.....	758-5577
Volunteers	758-7050
Disability Determination Unit.....	758-5357
Data Processing.....	758-8650



ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

758-8650 Data Processing

758-7957 Disability Determination Unit

758-7950 Volunteers

758-5577 Media Center

758-7050 Children's Services

758-7771 Educational Radio for the Blind

758-8165 Special Services

758-3456 Prevention of Blindness

758-2333 Blindness

758-5173 Business Enterprise Program

758-5577 Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center

758-2671 Vocational Rehabilitation

758-8650 Accounting

758-2605 Personnel

758-2434 Director of Public Affairs

758-3761 Director of Client Services

758-2595 Commissioner

1-800-323-2323 TOLL FREE INFORMATION